

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the comments set forth fully below. Claims 1-49 were pending. Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-10, 20, 22, 25 and 27 have been rejected, Claims 12-19 and 32-49 have been allowed and Claims 3, 5-7, 11, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 28-31 have been objected to. By the above amendment, Claims 1, 5-7, 11, 20, 23-25 and 28-30 have been amended and Claims 3, 21, 26 and 31 have been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 4-20, 22-25, 27-30 and 32-49 are now pending.

Objections To The Specification:

Within the Office Action, the disclosure has been objected to because of certain informalities. By the above amendments, the noted paragraphs have been amended to correct the identified informalities.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 4, 8, 20, 22, 25 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,335,933 to Mallory. Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,717,947 to Ghodrati et al. Within the Office Action, it is indicated that Claims 3, 5-7, 11, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 28-31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the above amendment, the independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of the objected to Claim 3 and Claim 3 has been canceled. Accordingly, the independent Claim 1 is allowable as indicated within the Office Action. Claims 2, 4 and 8-10 are dependent on the independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 2, 4 and 8-10 are also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

By the above amendment, the objected to Claims 5-7 and 11 have been amended into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the independent Claims 5-7 and 11 are allowable as indicated within the Office Action.

By the above amendment, the independent Claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations of the objected to Claim 21 and Claim 21 has been canceled. Accordingly, the

independent Claim 20 is allowable as indicated within the Office Action. Claim 22 is dependent on the independent Claim 20. Accordingly, Claim 22 is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

By the above amendment, the objected to Claims 23 and 24 have been amended into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the independent Claims 23 and 24 are allowable as indicated within the Office Action.

By the above amendment, the independent Claim 25 has been amended to include the limitations of the objected to Claim 26 and Claim 26 has been canceled. Accordingly, the independent Claim 25 is allowable as indicated within the Office Action. Claim 27 is dependent on the independent Claim 25. Accordingly, Claim 27 is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

By the above amendment, the objected to Claims 28 and 29 have been amended into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the independent Claims 28 and 29 are allowable as indicated within the Office Action.

By the above amendment, the independent Claim 30 has been amended to include the limitations of the objected to Claim 31 and Claim 31 has been canceled. Accordingly, the independent Claim 30 is allowable as indicated within the Office Action.

It is indicated within the Office Action that Claims 12-19 and 32-49 are allowed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: November 16, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))
I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP.

Date: 11/16/06 By: [Signature]